

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (presently amended) A heated ear guard, for use by a user, having a head having ears, comprising:

a pair of ear covers, each ear cover having a rigid shell having an open end and a closed end, each ear cover also having a reflector assembly that contains a light bulb and is oriented toward the open end to direct substantially all light from the light bulb from the open end, a peripheral sealing ring for contacting one of the ears and cushioning the ear cover thereagainst, and an outer ring that is translucent for allowing some of the light from the reflector to escape laterally through the outer ring to enhance the visibility and safety of the wearer; and

a headband, attached to each of the closed ends, for selectively extending over the head of the user and securing each of the ear covers over one of the ears of the user.

2. (cancelled).

3. (cancelled).

4. (presently amended) The heated ear guard as recited in claim 1 3, wherein each outer ring has a transparent lens that spans the open end and prevents the light bulb from contacting the ear of the wearer.

5. (original) The heated ear guard as recited in claim 4, further comprising a battery pack, the battery pack having a clip for attaching to the user and having a power cord connected to the ear covers for supplying power to the light bulbs.

6. (presently amended) An ear warming method, for use by a user having a head having a pair of ears, using an ear guard having a pair of ear covers, the ear covers attached together by a headband, each ear cover having an open end, having a reflector assembly oriented toward the open end, and having a light bulb situated within the reflector, wherein each ear cover has a rigid shell that contains the reflector assembly and a translucent outer ring near the open end, comprising the steps of:

positioning each ear cover upon one of the ears; ~~and~~

warming the ears by radiating heat to the ears from the light bulbs by powering the light bulbs; and

enhancing the safety of the wearer by enhancing the visibility of the wearer by allowing light to escape laterally from the ear cover through the outer ring.

7. (cancelled).

8. (presently amended) The ear warming method as recited in claim 6 7, wherein each ear cover has a lens, and wherein the method further comprises the step of protecting the ears from the light bulb by spanning the lens across the open end between the light bulb and ears of the wearer.